

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140315

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:PFOR,SO, US

SUBJECT: SOMALI AMBASSADOR PROTESTS BERBERA STATEMENTS

1. SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU CALLED ON ASST. SEC. DAVIS JUNE 13 TO PROTEST STATEMENT OF DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER REGARDING SOVIET "BASE" IN BERBERA AND TO REPORT ON HIS EFFORTS IN MOGADISCIO TO IMPROVE U.S.-SOMALI RELATIONS. ADDOU SAID HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WERE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY SCHLESINGER'S REPEATING THESE OLD ALLEGATIONS AND OFFENDING THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT AT A TIME WHEN RELATIONS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN STEADILY IMPROVING AFTER MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING EFFORT. PRESIDENT SIAD, HE SAID, HAD GIVEN PRESIDENT FORD HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS NO SOVIET BASE IN SOMALIA, AND THAT SHOULD HAVE ENDED THE MATTER. ADDOU SAID HE WAS SURE THAT IF WE HAD PICTURES OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN BERBERA, THESE WERE SOMALI FACILITIES AND DID NOT BELONG TO ANY FOREIGN POWER. ADDOU SAID HE EXPECTED INSTUCTIONS SHORTLY TO CALL ON SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD TO REGISTER HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROTEST. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT ADDOU ALSO HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 17)

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2. DAVIS REPLIED THAT BEST WAY TO CLEAR UP THIS "CONFUSION" ONE WAY OR OTHER WAS FOR OUTSIDERS TO HAVE A LOOK AT BERBERA FOR THEMSELVES. WE WOULD THEREFORE VERY SOON BE REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT FOR AN

AMERICAN OFFICIAL TO VISIT BERBERA IN ACCORDANCE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY AFTEH'S OPEN INVITATION.

3. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, ADDOU SAID PRESIDENT SIAD HAD GIVEN HIS PERSONAL ASSENT TO A U.S. NAVAL VISIT TO MOGADISCIO IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. ALL THAT WAS NEEDED WAS FOR US TO ADVISE THEM OF CONVENIENT DATES. HE SAID SHIP'S CREW WOULD BE GUESTS OF THE SOMALI NAVY AND WOULD BE TREATED TO ROUND OF ATHLETIC CONTESTS, TOURS OF "MILITARY INSTALLATIONS " ETC. QUESTION OF DATES FOR SHIP VISIT WILL BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE CABLE, PENDING OUTCOME OF EVENTS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. ADDOU EXTENDED A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT SIAD FOR DAVIS TO VISIT THIS SUMMER. WHEN HE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT DAVIS WAS INDEED CONSIDERING VISIT TO EAST AFRICA IN NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS, ADDOU TOLD DEPOFF THAT HE HOPED SOMALIA WOULD BE ON DAVIS' ITINERARY, SINCE FAILURE TO VISIT SOMALIA AFTER PRESIDENT SIAD HAD EXTENDED PERSONAL INVITATION WOULD BE SEEN BY SOMALIS AS EVIDENCE OF U.S.'S "TRUE INTENTIONS" TOWARD

SOMALIA. EVER THE OPTIMIST, ADDOU SAID HE WAS SURE THAT INVITATION STILL STOOD, NOTWITHSTANDING SOMALI DIS-

PLEASURE AT SCHLESINGER REMARKS, WHICH HE SAID HE REGARDED AS A PASSING PHENOMENON. OUR REPLY TO ADDOU WAS NON-COMMITTAL, BUT POSSIBILITY OF DAVIS STOPOVER IN MOGADISCIO WILL BE CONSIDERED SHOULD SITUATION APPEAR PROPITIOUS OVER NEXT WEEK.

5. WITH REGARD TO VARIOUS OTHER PROBLEMS, ADDOU SAID GSDR HAD AGREED TO PAY OUTSTANDING INTEREST ON WATER LOAN AND INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO SEND CHECK TO EMBASSY. PLEASE ADVISE DEPT WHEN CHECK RECEIVED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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IN WHAT AMOUNT. RE COMPOUND PROBLEM, ADDOU SAID GSDR READY TO REACH MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION WITH USG. HE REFERRED TO HAVING DISCUSSED WITH YOU POSSIBILITY OF AN "EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY" ABOUT WHICH HE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER DETAILS. ON FLAG SHIPPING QUESTION, HE SAID EXISTING CONTRACTS COULD NOT BE CANCELLED WITHOUT MANY LEGAL COMPLICATIONS, BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING RENEWED WHEN THEY EXPIRE,

THUS EXTENDING THE PROCESS OF DEREGISTRATION OVER
SEVERAL MONTHS. KISSINGER

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